Title: Need to include Pandharpur in Maharashtra in the Central List of Pilgrimage centres and allocate adequate funds for its development as a tourist centre.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): I draw your attention towards the development of pilgrimage centre in my parliamentary constituency − Pandharpur, Maharashtra. Pandharpur, in the Sholapur district of Maharashtra, which is situated in a quiet place in the laps of River Chandra Bhaga and the Temple Vithal Rakumai, is on the banks of River Chandra Bhaga.

The Temple Vithal Rakumai is being visited by lakhs of pilgrims from the States of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and foreigners apart from Maharashtra itself to seek the blessings of Vithal Rakumai. However, these pilgrims are facing difficulties without proper arrangement for accommodation, sanitation etc. Development of this place as a pilgrimage centre will benefit both the pilgrims and the revenue earnings of the Government.

However, it is learnt that the Pandharpur is not in the pilgrimages list of Central Government and hence there is no authority to take care of the needs of pilgrims. Hence, it is requested that necessary steps may be taken so that Phandharpur is listed in pilgrimage centres list of Central Government with allocation of an amount of Rs.50 crore for the development of this pilgrimage centre in the public interest.

_____